THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1986, passed by the Lok Sabha on 18th November, 1986 and by the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1986 and which was submitted to the President for assent on 19th December, 1986, is the only Bill to which the assent of the President is awaited.

(b) Information is being collected from the Ministries and Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prime Minister's meeting with Church Authorities in Kerala during his Election Tour

873. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports that while on an election tour to Kerala recently, the Prime Minister held a meeting in Raj Bhavan with Bishops and other Church authorities in the background of Christian votes;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and how the Election Commission of India has rsponded thereto; and

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government's attention was drawn to a news item in a local daily wherein a reference had been made to the meeting between the Prime Minister and some Bishops of Kerala during his electioneering in that State.

The Election Commission forwarded the news item to the Cabinet Secretariat and asked for comments in order to consider the matter further. The clarification received by the Election Commission from the Cabinet Secretariat show that the Prime Minister had met a number of people during his visit to Trivandrum, including a delegation of Bishops; however, the Prime Minister had not said or done anything to infringe the Model Code of Conduct.

(c) Does not arise.

Elections in Haryana

874. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission of India has expressed its unhappiness over the elections in Haryana not being held in March, 1987 and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is the statutory obligation of the Election Commission to prepare and keep ready electoral rolls in various States; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to eliminate occassions of probability of similar unhappiness of the Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) According to a Press Release dated 4-2-1987, the Election Commission of India was not happy over the difficulties pointed out by the Haryana Government for not completing the revision of rolls according to schedule and therefore a further review had to be undertaken. Consequently, the Commission had to de-link the elections to the Haryana State Legislative Assembly from the elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and West Bengal. The Commission directed the C.E.O. Haryana to take remedial measures expeditiously.